

The winners of the October 2012 West Lafayette Beautification Award are Carol and Bruce Shertzer of 1620 Western Drive. They built and moved into their current home in 1960. At that time the garden included swampy, clay soil and one mulberry tree. Since then they have amended the soil and added planting beds, borders, trees, flowers, a fountain, bird feeders and a lovely orange gazing globe. Most of the perennials have been garnered from friends and neighbors.

Carol is the planner and artist; her favorite flower is the hydrangea. Bruce says he is the laborer and his favorite flower is the Japanese iris, called "Royal Caesar." Samples of this iris have been transplanted to the garden of their son. One senses a serene Japanese theme to the Shertzer's garden. The iris, azaleas and trickling sound of water in the fountain reflect this theme and Bruce and Carol spend much time working and relaxing in their serene oasis.

